

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 URGING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO OBTAIN
3 SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO PROVIDE A BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS SCHOOL
4 FACILITY FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD
5 GRADE AT THE SANOSTEE DAY SCHOOL AND TO ENSURE THAT THE BUREAU
6 OF INDIAN AFFAIRS PRIORITIZE CORRECTION OF THE UNSAFE
7 CONDITIONS AT THE SANOSTEE DAY SCHOOL.

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9 WHEREAS, Sanostee is a chapter of the Navajo Nation
10 located in San Juan county near United States route 491; and

11 WHEREAS, the community of Sanostee is roughly halfway
12 between Shiprock and Gallup; and

13 WHEREAS, Sanostee has had schools for its children since
14 1954, when a campus of up to ninety buildings was established
15 but later demolished due to safety concerns because the
16 buildings were built on unstable ground; and

17 WHEREAS, the day school building, built in 1966, was
18 saved from demolition and renovated in 1984, has been used
19 with several portable buildings to house the eighty-seven
20 students in grades kindergarten through third grade and
21 offices for staff members; and

22 WHEREAS, the school also houses an Indian health
23 services field clinic providing health care services for the
24 children and the adults of the community of Sanostee; and

25 WHEREAS, inspection of the Sanostee day school in 2003

1 indicated that all of the structural concrete beams and two
2 concrete piers were cracked and unsafe and many of the walls
3 of the school are cracked and replacement of the building was
4 recommended by the bureau of Indian affairs facilities
5 manager; and

6 WHEREAS, the condition of the schools has been studied
7 and evaluated for over two years and findings are available
8 that describe the dire condition of the Sanostee day school
9 and request that the school be placed at the top of the
10 bureau of Indian affairs facilities construction list; and

11 WHEREAS, the proposal for a short-term solution involves
12 providing additional temporary buildings while construction
13 is begun on a permanent building at a different location so
14 that the structural problems can be avoided in the future;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, in spite of the unhealthy and unsafe conditions
17 of the facility around them, the students at the Sanostee day
18 school were recognized for their high achievement in 2003;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional
21 delegation be urged to immediately identify funding that will
22 help provide temporary school buildings for the Sanostee day
23 school; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional
25 delegation also be urged to identify funding for the

1 construction of a new day school for the Navajo community of
2 Sanostee; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional
4 delegation be urged to ensure that the bureau of Indian
5 affairs take immediate action to rectify the unsafe
6 conditions at the Sanostee day school and enable the students
7 to continue to attend school in their community by making the
8 Sanostee day school improvements a facilities construction
9 priority; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional
12 delegation, the director of the bureau of Indian affairs
13 facilities management and construction office in Shiprock, New
14 Mexico, the area director of the Navajo regional Indian health
15 services office in Gallup, the facilities manager of the
16 Navajo office of facilities management and construction in
17 Window Rock, Arizona, and to the chapter officials of the
18 Sanostee Navajo chapter. _____

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